



**Option A: 19th Century topic****HOW JUSTIFIED WAS THE FOREIGN RESPONSE TO THE BOXER RISING?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

**Background Information**

The Boxer Rebellion lasted from 1899 to 1901 and involved attacks on foreigners, especially Christian missionaries. The Boxers were reacting to increasing European and American interference in China. This came in several forms including foreign missionaries trying to convert the Chinese to Christianity and attempts by countries like Britain, France, Germany, Japan and Russia to partition the country between them. Foreign countries claimed that China was backward and its people were barbarians. They also claimed that closer contact with foreigners would benefit China. For them, the actions of the Boxers seemed to confirm this and justify their interference in China.

When attacks on foreigners began, the position of the Empress was unclear, although imperial troops did later fight alongside the Boxers. The Chinese government's failure to stop the Boxers, and the siege of foreigners in the Legation Quarter of Beijing, led to further foreign intervention with an international force arriving in August 1900. It defeated the Boxers and set about exacting revenge. Was this foreign intervention justified?

**SOURCE A**

The Boxers were a peasant secret society of the traditional superstitious type. In 1898, in Shandong province, this society became a focus of resentment against the Germans, who were turning the province into their colony in a brutal manner – not only exploiting it economically but also burning villages to punish them for 'unfriendliness'. Also people throughout China were becoming more and more enraged by the missionaries, who were behaving quite openly as advance agents for their governments who were picking off parts of China. These abuses at a time when China was being openly surveyed for inter-imperialist partition made the peasant rebels anti-foreign and anti-missionary. It is a cruel imperialist libel to call the movement 'reactionary'. On the contrary, it was a heroic, spontaneous effort of the common people of China to defend its national existence against the robbers who wanted to cut it up.

The tragedy of the Boxers was that they lacked clear policies and lacked understanding of the relationship of forces either at home or internationally. This made them an easy prey to deception and doomed them to defeat. The feudal rulers at Beijing, seeing the movement was spreading like lightning, pretended to put themselves at its head. But even as fighting was going on they begged the foreign governments not to be taken in by appearances and make the mistake of suspecting the dynasty of 'favouring the common folk'. The dynasty was waiting to turn its troops against the patriotic 'rebels' and in almost every area of China royal officials took no part in the rebellion. Taking advantage of the situation, the foreigners mobilised a strong force and stormed into Beijing delivering slaughter and looting. The Boxer rising had been betrayed and smashed.

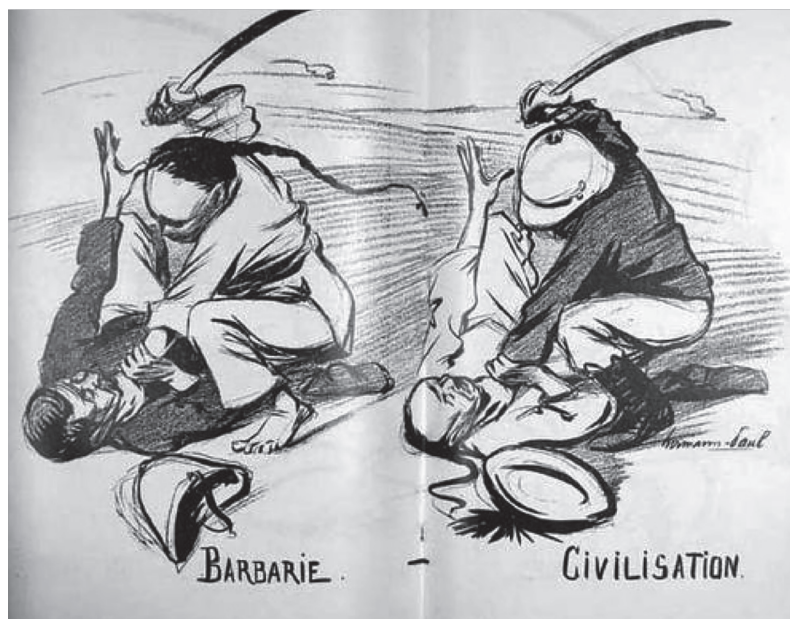
*From a book about the history of China entitled 'From Opium War to Liberation',  
published in China in 1956.*

**SOURCE B**

The foreigners had a lot to put up with. They came to trade, which was natural and legitimate. When the Chinese refused to let them trade for reasons that were self-centred and obsolete, and expressed in an offensive manner, the foreigners could hardly be expected to sympathise. In China, female children were often killed at birth or offered for sale. The missionaries opened orphanages for these children but this led to stories that they were mutilating the bodies while practising magic. In nine cases out of ten the Boxer was a Chinese peasant in fancy dress. The superstitious nonsense with which the Boxers surrounded themselves appealed strongly to the peasantry and brightened their drab lives. Their first riots had their origins in their hatred of foreigners and their conflicts with Christians.

It was the Empress's decision that the Boxers were encouraged instead of being suppressed, and it was her decision that the foreign envoys should be massacred. It is difficult to understand why she took an opportunity in the Boxer Rising. It is true that she could draw on no other help in her unequal struggle with the foreign powers but it was her decision to rely on a rabble of uncontrollable fanatics who were bound to unite the squabbling foreign powers. She had always been superstitious, and now the Boxers' magic powers established some sort of hold on her mind. She was playing her last card. She would call in the dark forces of the spirit world. The purpose of the siege of the Legation Quarter, to which the Empress devoted her energies for two months, was to wipe out the entire foreign community in Beijing and was pursued with diligence in the face of protests from the foreign powers and her own officials.

*From a history book published in Britain in 1959.*

**SOURCE C**

*A cartoon about the Boxer Rebellion published in a French magazine, July 1899. 'Barbarie' means 'Barbarism'.*

**SOURCE D**

The German Empire has the obligation to assist its citizens if they are being attacked in foreign lands. What makes this possible is our army. You are to revenge the injustice that has been done. The Chinese have overturned the law of nations; they have mocked the sacredness of the ambassador. Show the old Prussian virtue. Present yourselves as Christians in the cheerful endurance of suffering. Give the whole world an example of manliness and discipline. You know that you are to fight a well-armed and cruel enemy. When you encounter the enemy, he will be defeated! Prisoners will not be taken! May the name 'German' be proclaimed by you in such a way that no Chinese will ever dare to look cross-eyed at a German. Open the way to civilisation!

*Kaiser William II speaking to German troops before they left for China, 27 July 1900.*

**SOURCE E**

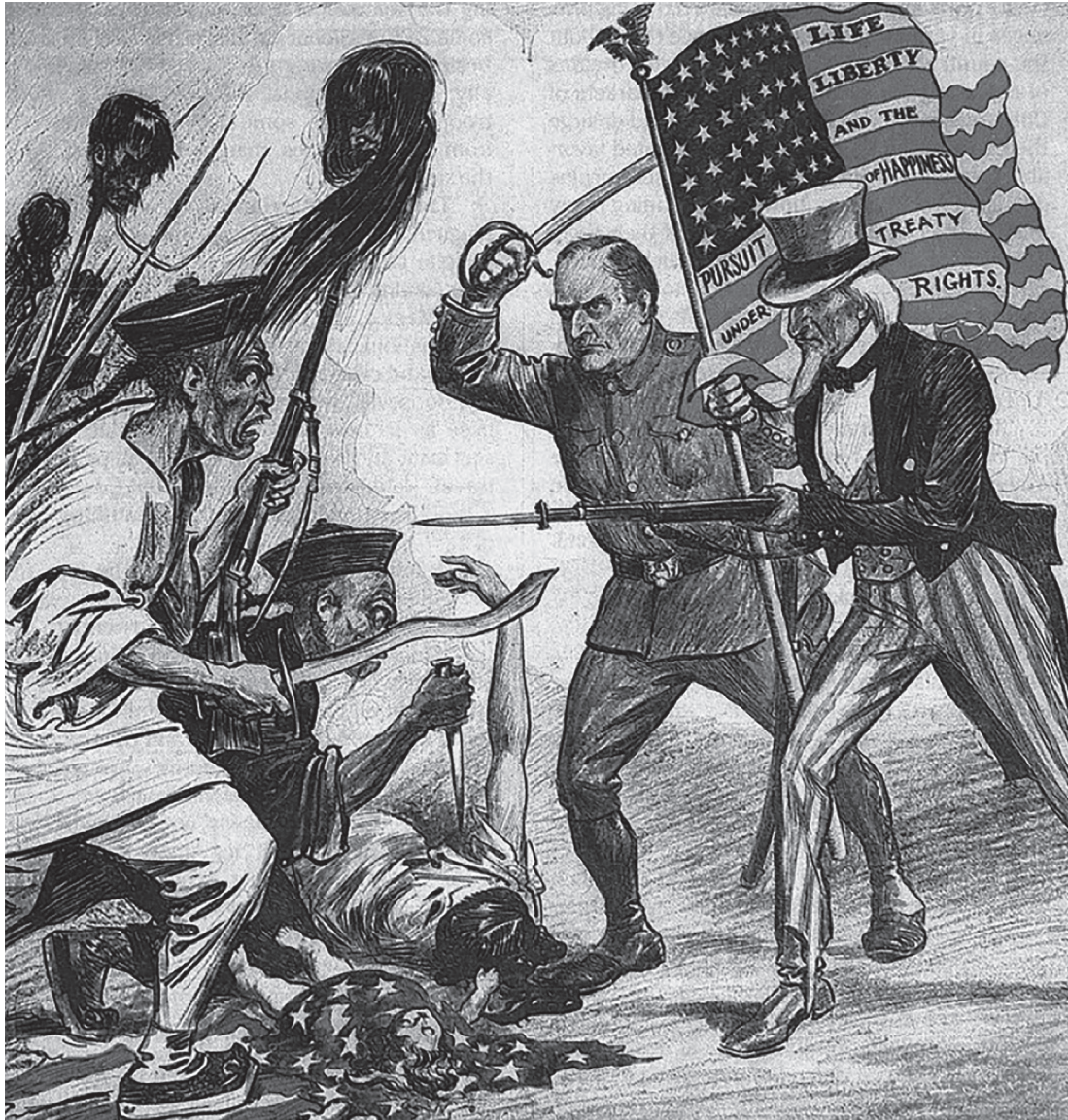
The Europeans fought with calm courage to the end against overwhelming hordes of fanatical barbarians thirsting for their blood. While their ammunition lasted they defied Chinese rifle fire and beat back wave after wave of their assailants. When their last cartridge had gone their hour had come. They met it like men. Standing to their battered defences they stopped the onrush of the Chinese until, borne down by sheer weight of numbers, they died at their posts. They have died as we would want them to die, fighting to the last for the helpless women and children who were to be butchered over their dead bodies. Of the Ladies, it is enough to say that in this awful hour they showed themselves worthy of their husbands. Their agony was long and cruel, but they have borne it nobly. All that remains for us is to mourn them and to avenge them.

*From an article in an English newspaper, 17 July 1900. This article claimed to describe a massacre of British diplomats and their families in Beijing. A few days later it was shown to be completely false. A memorial service in London for the victims planned for 23 July had to be cancelled.*

**SOURCE F**

*A cartoon published in a French magazine, July 1900. Its title is 'The expedition of the European powers against the Boxers'.*

SOURCE G



*An illustration published in an American magazine in 1900.*

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

**1** Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

**2** Study Source C.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

**3** Study Source D.

Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

**4** Study Source E.

Why was this source published in England in July 1900? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

**5** Study Sources F and G.

Would the artists of these two sources have agreed about events in China in 1900? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

**6** Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the foreign response to the Boxer Rising was justified? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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**Option B: 20th Century topic****HOW FAR DID ITALY BENEFIT FROM ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH GERMANY?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

**Background Information**

To many at the time, and to many since, it seemed inevitable that because of their ideological similarities, Nazi Germany and Mussolini's Italy would be allies. However, their relationship was not quite this straightforward. Despite early differences over Austria, in October 1936 Germany and Italy signed a treaty forming the Rome-Berlin Axis. This did not stop other countries such as Britain, France and the USSR trying to win the friendship of one or the other of them. Some suspected that the interests of Germany and Italy were not always the same. However, in May 1939 they signed the Pact of Steel, a political and military alliance which stated that if one country was at war, the other would come to its support.

Did Italy benefit from its relationship with Germany?

**SOURCE A**

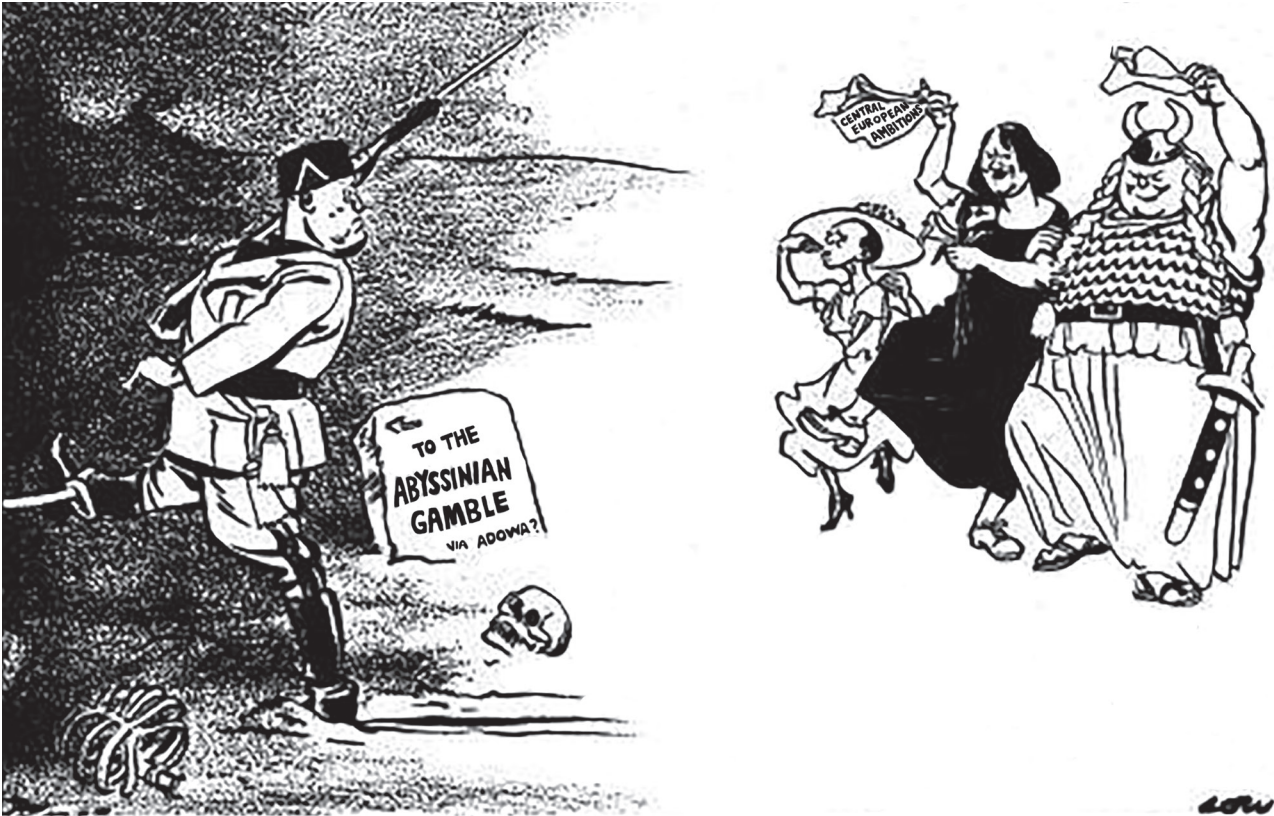
By the end of 1937 Mussolini had rarely been so happy. Alongside Germany and Japan, he felt at the centre of the 'most formidable military combination that has ever existed'. To introduce a further element of 'Prussianisation' his soldiers were ordered to adopt the German goose step march. Mussolini privately accepted that the Nazification of Austria was inescapable, though he mistakenly assumed that Hitler would warn him in time to prepare the Italian public for his change of policy.

In March 1938, Hitler marched into Austria after notifying Rome only at the very last moment. Italy thus lost the immense advantage of having only a weak buffer state on her northern frontier. Having often promised that he would fight to defend Austrian independence, now in March Mussolini protested he had never said anything so foolish. Hitler had been careful not to tell Mussolini of his plans to extend Germany's living space and calculated that, as Italy had its hands full in Spain, he could meanwhile take Austria and Czechoslovakia, possibly without offering his partner anything in return. He had gradually been displacing Italy in the commerce of south-eastern Europe. Mussolini was seriously worried and occasionally he spoke of changing sides in Europe. He still hoped to ride several horses at once but such behaviour was irresponsible, unrealistic and hardly that of a potential ally.

*From a history book published in 1981.*



## SOURCE B



## THE GIRLS HE LEFT BEHIND HIM

*A British cartoon published in May 1935. The figures on the right are Goebbels, Hitler and Göring.*

## SOURCE C

Germany is swayed towards Italy not so much because of its defiance of the League of Nations but because of its success. While sanctions were still in operation there was little sign of any rapprochement between the two dictators. It was only when sanctions were lifted that Germany, which only respects force, found something in Italy worth cultivating. Any appearance now of over-keenness by us to improve relations with Italy will only increase its charms in the eyes of Hitler. It is doubtful how far any gesture of friendliness by us would make Italy change its policy of re-constituting the Roman Empire, no matter how fantastic and unreal this may be.

However, unless we reply to Mussolini's advances, he will return to increasing collaboration and understanding with Germany, which will work to our eventual danger. A generous response might help produce a detente. If our rearmament continues it will be worthwhile for Italy to maintain relations of friendship with Britain.

*Written by Sir Anthony Eden for his colleagues in the British government, November 1936.  
Eden was in charge of British foreign policy.*

SOURCE D



*A British cartoon published in June 1934. An oracle is a person who gives wise advice.*

## SOURCE E



*A British cartoon published in February 1938.*

## SOURCE F

The meeting in Berlin resulted in an agreement between our two countries over certain problems which have been particularly difficult. This agreement makes this Berlin-Rome relationship into an axis around which can revolve all those European states with a wish for collaboration and peace. With this agreement there disappears any element of dispute between Berlin and Rome.

*From a speech by Mussolini in Milan, November 1936.*

## SOURCE G

If Germany attacks Poland and the conflict is localised, Italy will give Germany every form of political and economic aid which may be required. If Germany attacks Poland and the allies of the latter counter-attack Germany, I must emphasise to you that I cannot join any warlike operations, given the actual conditions of Italian military preparations which have been repeatedly pointed out to you.

*From a letter from Mussolini to Hitler, August 1939.*

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

**1** Study Source A.

What impressions does Source A give of the relationship between Hitler and Mussolini? Explain your answer using details of the source. [6]

**2** Study Source B.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

**3** Study Source C.

How far are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

**4** Study Sources D and E.

How far do these two cartoons agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

**5** Study Sources F and G.

Does Source G prove that Mussolini was lying in Source F? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

**6** Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Italy benefited from its relationship with Germany? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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